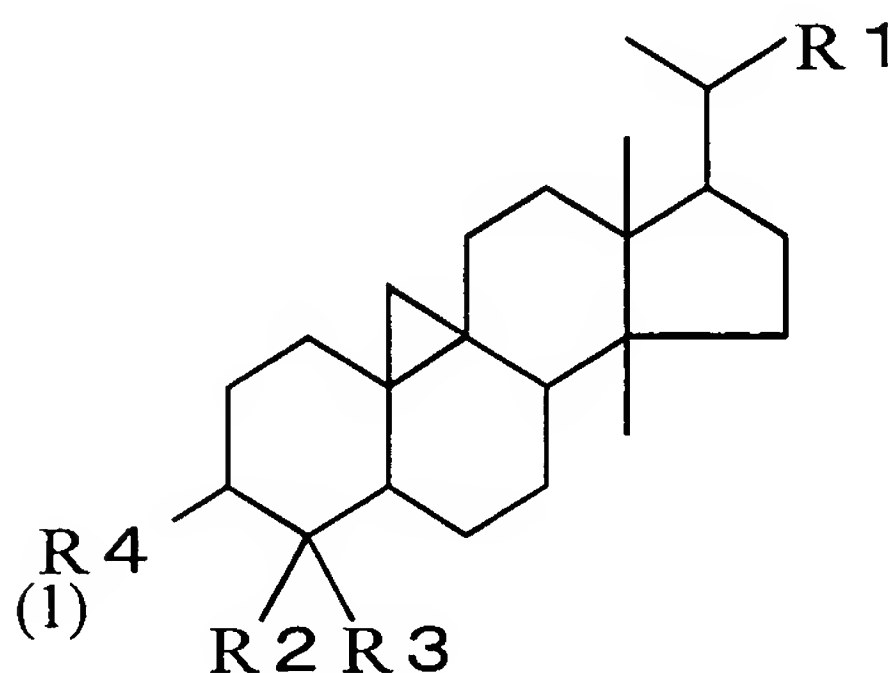
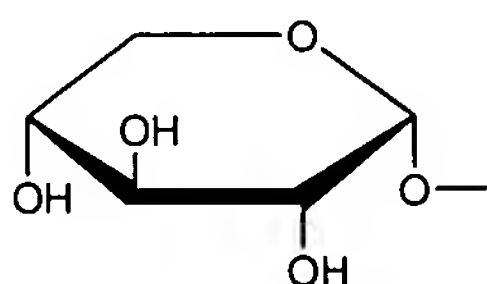
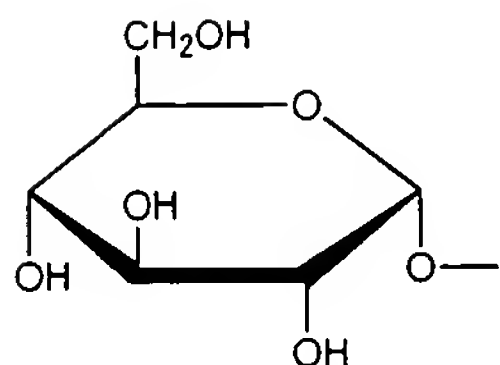
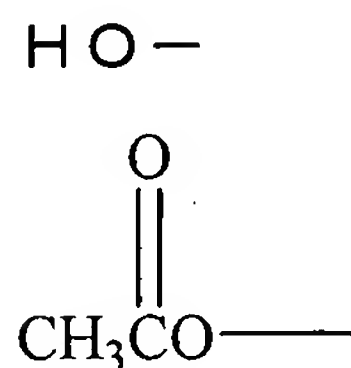


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A drug for improving hyperglycemia, which comprises a compound represented by the following general formula (1) as an active ingredient:



wherein R1 represents a straight or branched alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, which may contain no double bond or 1 or 2 double bonds and may contain no hydroxyl group or carbonyl group or 1 or 2 hydroxyl groups and/or carbonyl groups, R2 and R3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and R4 forms C=O with the carbon atom constituting the ring or is a group represented by any one of the following formulas:

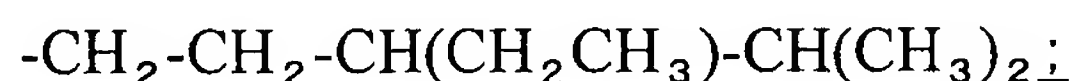


Int'l Appl. No. : PCT/JP2005/006021
Int'l filing date : March 30, 2005

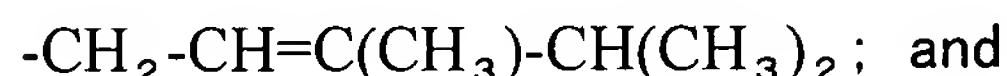
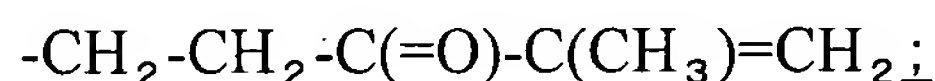
2. (Currently amended) The drug for improving hyperglycemia according to claim 1, wherein R1 is represented by any one of the following formulas, R2 and R3 both are methyl groups, and R4 is a hydroxyl group:



(~~wherein~~wherein Ra is any of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl or methyl group, and Rb is hydrogen atom or hydroxyl group);



(~~wherein~~wherein Rc is any of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl or methyl group);



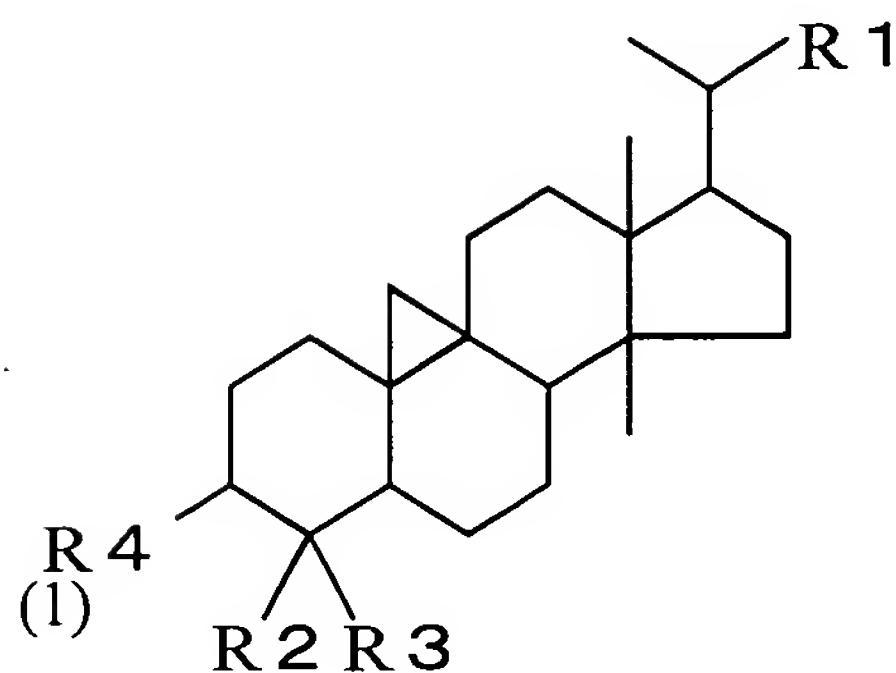
3. (Original) The drug for improving hyperglycemia according to claim 2, wherein the compound is 9,19-cyclolanostan-3-ol or 24-methylene-9,19-cyclolanostan-3-ol.

4. (Currently amended) The drug according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, which ~~contains~~comprises 0.001 to 10% by dry mass of the compound.

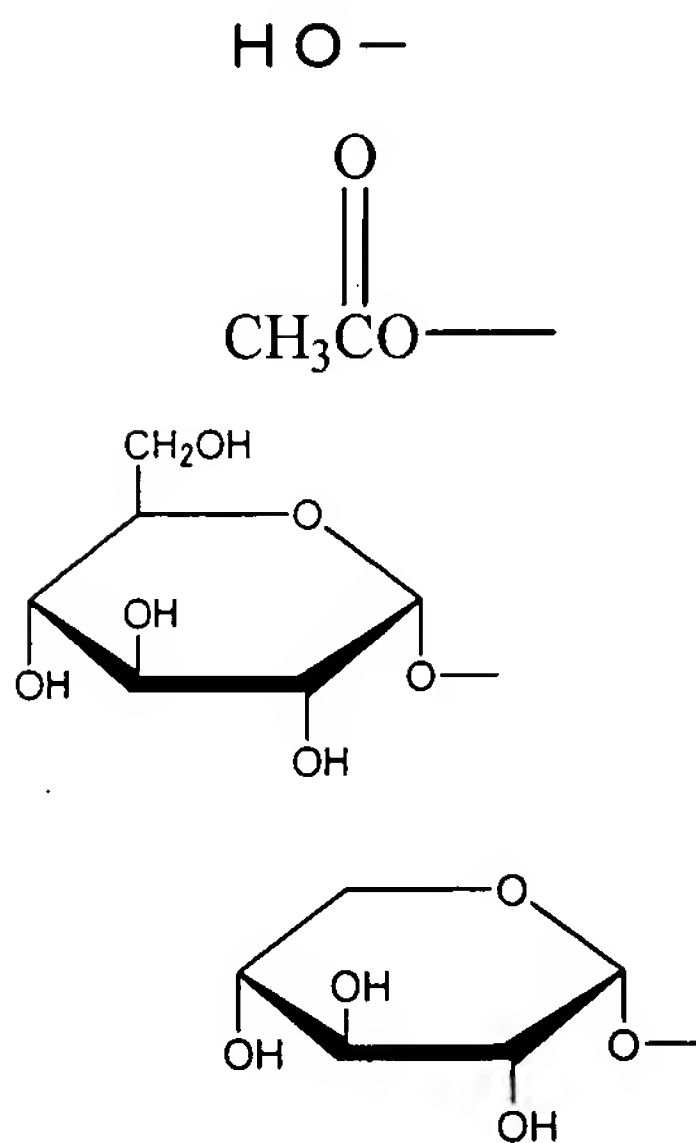
5. (Currently amended) A drug for improving hyperglycemia, which comprises an organic solvent extract or hot water extract of a plant or a fraction thereof as an active ingredient and ~~contains~~comprises 0.001 to 10% by dry mass of a compound represented by the following general formula (1):

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Int'l Appl. No. : PCT/JP2005/006021
 Int'l filing date : March 30, 2005



wherein R1 represents a straight or branched alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, which may contain no double bond or 1 or 2 double bonds and may contain no hydroxyl group or carbonyl group or 1 or 2 hydroxyl groups and/or carbonyl groups, R2 and R3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and R4 forms C=O with the carbon atom constituting the ring or is a group represented by any one of the following formulas:

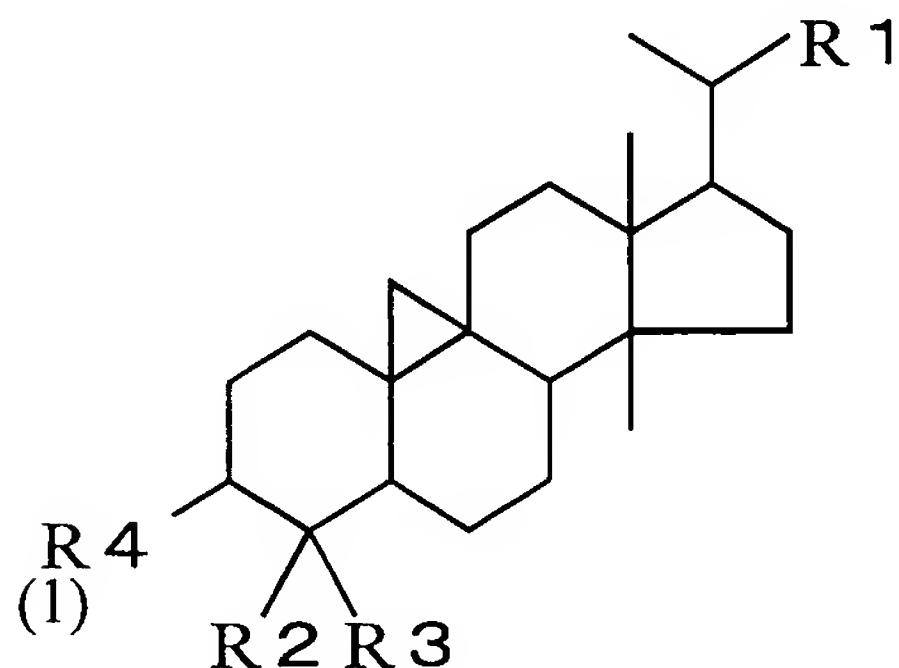


6. (Original) The drug for improving hyperglycemia according to claim 5, wherein the plant is a plant of the family *Gramineae* or *Liliaceae*.

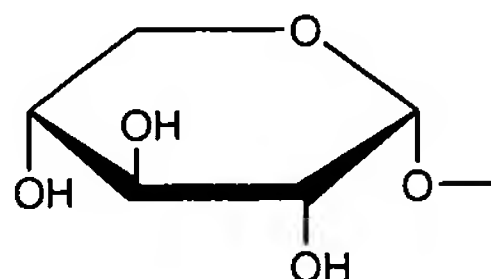
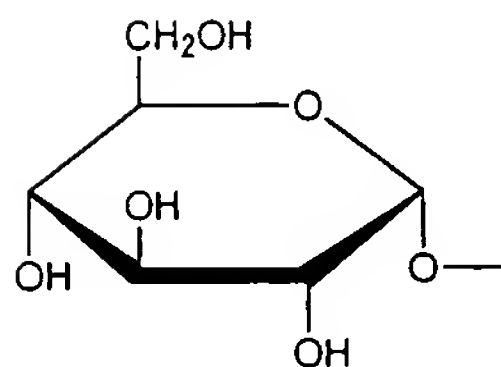
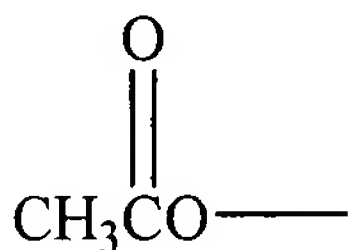
Int'l Appl. No. : PCT/JP2005/006021
Int'l filing date : March 30, 2005

7. (Original) The drug for improving hyperglycemia according to claim 6, wherein the plant of the family *Liliaceae* is *Aloe vera* (*Aloe barbadensis* Miller).

8. (Original) Food or drink for improving hyperglycemia, which comprises a compound represented by the following general formula (1) as an active ingredient:



wherein R1 represents a straight or branched alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, which may contain no double bond or 1 or 2 double bonds and may contain no hydroxyl group or carbonyl group or 1 or 2 hydroxyl groups and/or carbonyl groups, R2 and R3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and R4 forms C=O with the carbon atom constituting the ring or is a group represented by any one of the following formulas:

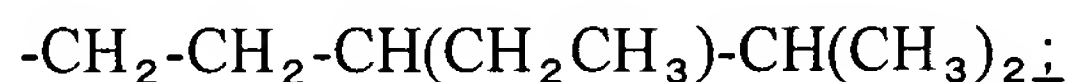


Int'l Appl. No. : PCT/JP2005/006021
Int'l filing date : March 30, 2005

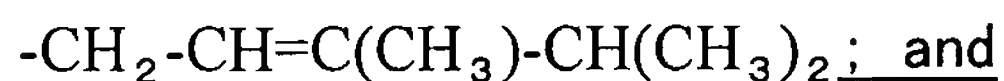
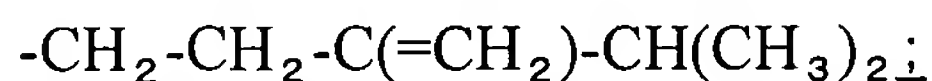
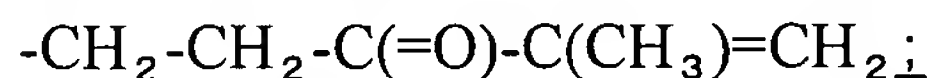
9. (Currently amended) The food or drink for improving hyperglycemia according to claim 8, wherein R1 is represented by any one of the following formulas, R2 and R3 both are methyl groups, and R4 is a hydroxyl group:



(~~wherein~~wherein Ra is any of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl or methyl group, and Rb is hydrogen atom or hydroxyl group);



(~~wherein~~wherein Rc is any of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl or methyl group);

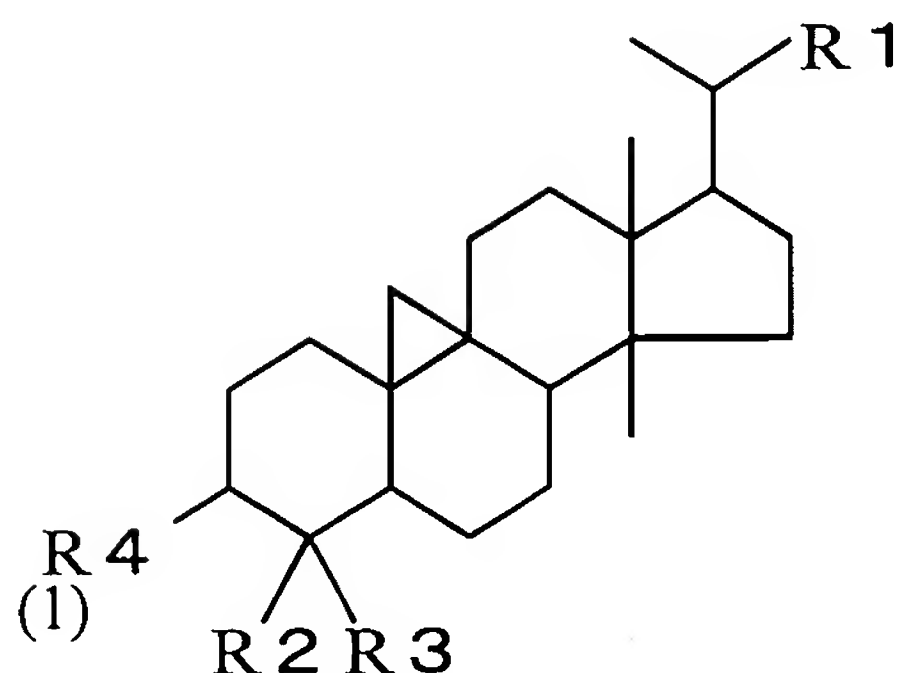


10. (Original) The food or drink for improving hyperglycemia according to claim 9, wherein the compound is 9,19-cyclolanostan-3-ol or 24-methylene-9,19-cyclolanostan-3-ol.

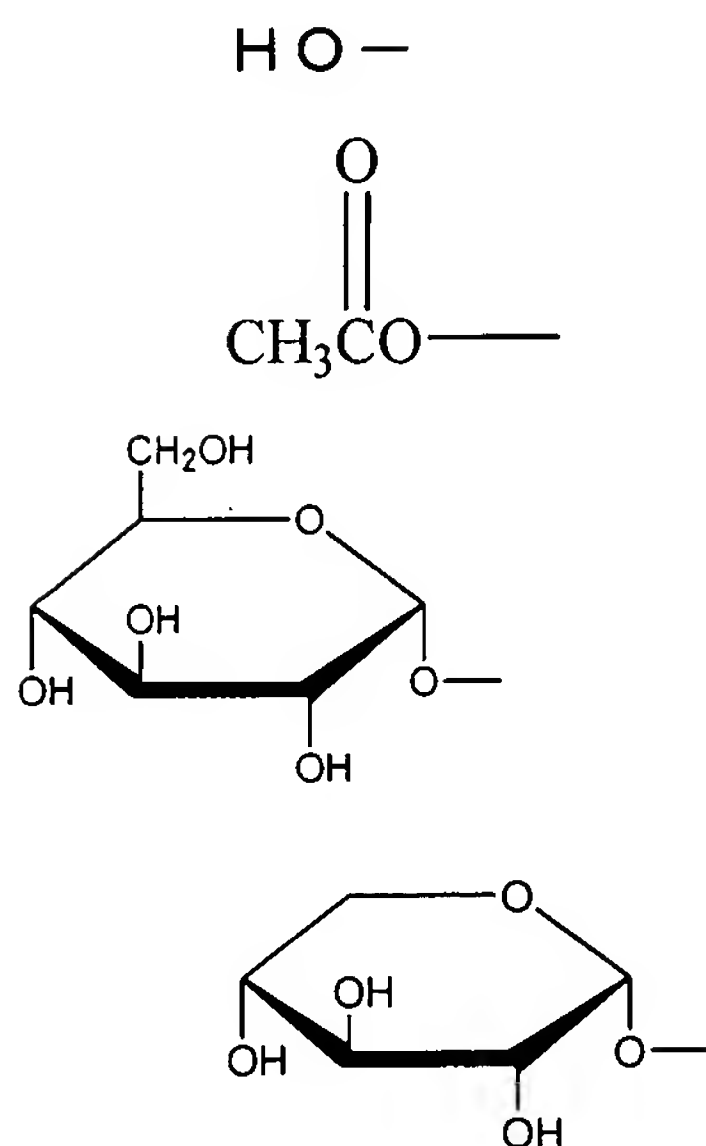
11. (Currently amended) The food or drink according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 10~~claim 8, which ~~contains~~comprises 0.0001 to 1% by dry mass of the compound.

12. (Currently amended) Food or drink for improving hyperglycemia, which comprises an organic solvent extract or hot water extract of a plant or a fraction thereof as an active ingredient and ~~contains~~comprises 0.0001 to 1% by dry mass of a compound represented by the following general formula (1):

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



wherein R1 represents a straight or branched alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, which may contain no double bond or 1 or 2 double bonds and may contain no hydroxyl group or carbonyl group or 1 or 2 hydroxyl groups and/or carbonyl groups, R2 and R3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and R4 forms C=O with the carbon atom constituting the ring or is a group represented by any one of the following formulas:

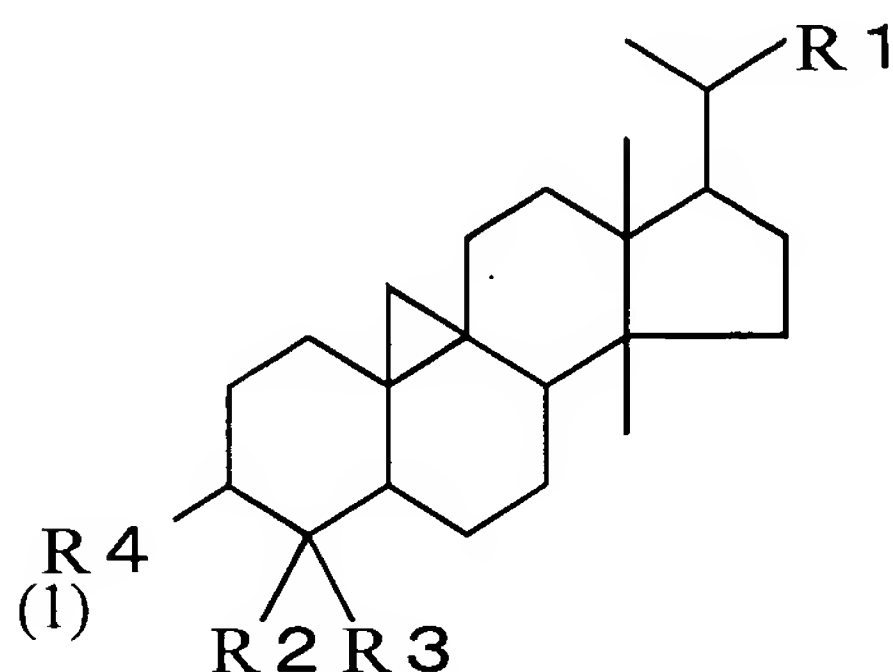


13. (Original) The food or drink for improving hyperglycemia according to claim 12, wherein the plant is a plant of the family *Gramineae* or *Liliaceae*.

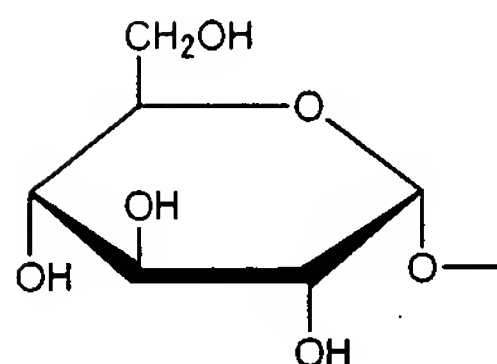
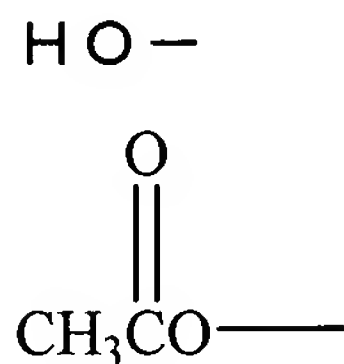
14. (Original) The food or drink for improving hyperglycemia according to claim 13, wherein the plant of the family *Liliaceae* is Aloe vera (*Aloe barbadensis* Miller).

15. (Currently amended) The food or drink according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 14~~claim 8, which has a hyperglycemia improving effect, and is attached with an indication that it is used for improvement of hyperglycemia.

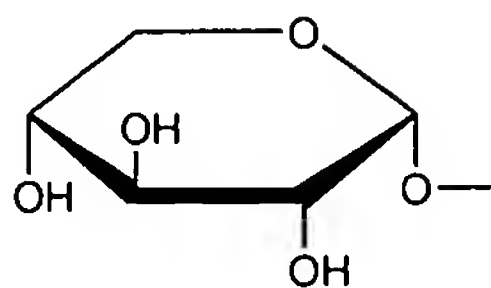
16. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~A pharmaceutical preparation comprising a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or a composition ~~containing~~comprising the same ~~for the production of a drug for improving hyperglycemia~~in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier:



wherein R1 represents a straight or branched alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, which may contain no double bond or 1 or 2 double bonds and may contain no hydroxyl group or carbonyl group or 1 or 2 hydroxyl groups and/or carbonyl groups, R2 and R3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and R4 forms C=O with the carbon atom constituting the ring or is a group represented by any one of the following formulas:

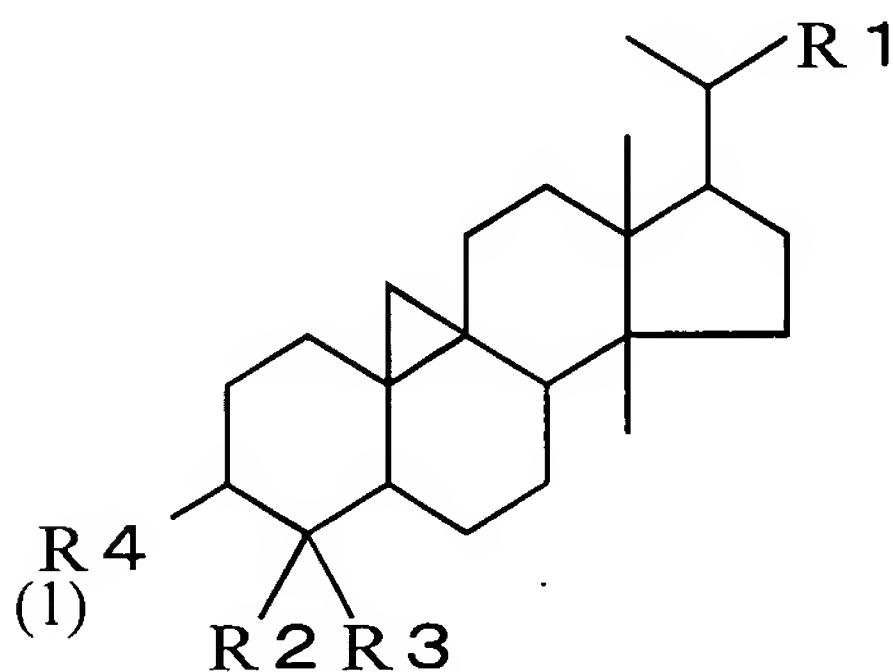


BEST AVAILABLE COPY

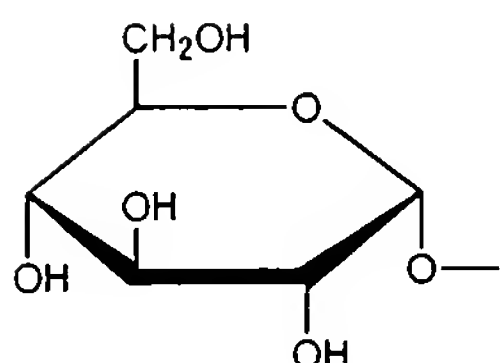
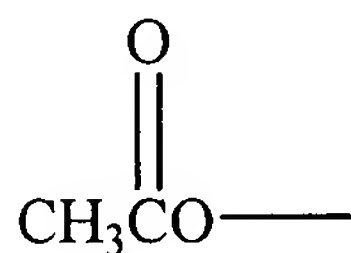


17. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 16, wherein the composition ~~contains~~comprises 0.001 to 10% by dry mass or more of the compound.

18. (Original) A method for improving hyperglycemia, which comprises administering a compound represented by the following chemical formula (1) or a composition containing the same to a subject whose hyperglycemia is to be improved:

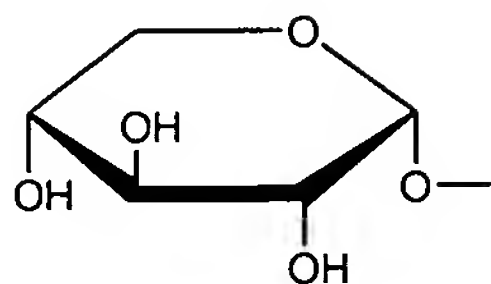


wherein R1 represents a straight or branched alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, which may contain no double bond or 1 or 2 double bonds and may contain no hydroxyl group or carbonyl group or 1 or 2 hydroxyl groups and/or carbonyl groups, R2 and R3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and R4 forms C=O with the carbon atom constituting the ring or is a group represented by any one of the following formulas:



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Int'l Appl. No. : PCT/JP2005/006021
Int'l filing date : March 30, 2005



19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the composition
| ~~contains~~ comprises 0.001 to 10% by dry mass or more of the compound.